

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS SENATE BILL 31 SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

Thank you Chairman Leibham and fellow members of the Senate Economic Development Committee for allowing me this opportunity to speak briefly on Senate Bill 31, the green data center bill.

As many of you know, a data center is a physical place that houses a computer network's most critical systems, including backup power supplies, air conditioning, and security applications. We're talking a large amount of data here, stored in a large number of computers. Facilities like this require a large amount of power. This bill seeks to encourage the building of a data center which is designed for maximum energy efficiency and minimum environmental impact.

Right now in Wisconsin, we are trying to attract jobs and business to the state. If companies feel that Wisconsin's IT infrastructure is insufficient and would limit their potential, those companies won't expand in Wisconsin, or choose to move here. We can't afford to be at a disadvantage to our neighboring states like Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota in attracting these types of jobs.

The Missouri legislature is considering incentive packages to bring data centers to their state. Iowa used incentives to bring a Google data center to Council Bluffs.

Currently, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Iowa all have data center incentive programs. Colorado, New York and New Jersey are all other states also working on recruiting data centers.

Wisconsin has several assets in its favor for locating data centers here. We have a cool climate, which is helpful for the amount of heat put off by the machines in a data center. We have very few natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes to worry about, and we have a qualified work force. Passing Senate Bill 31 would just be one more factor to make Wisconsin more attractive as a spot to locate a data center.